the State Government to supplement the proposal with feasibility studies consisting of engineering details and cost benefit analysis for their techno-economic appraisal, before they are considered for external assistance.

Onion production

*238. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of onion has come in huge quantity during current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are demanding permission to export; and

(c) what are the reasons in delaying the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Onion production is likely to be 47.20 lakh tonnes during the current year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was no delay in Government decision to allow export of onion as ban was partially lifted on February 1, 1999 and export of Bangalore Rose onion and Krishnapuram onion was permitted. Permission was also granted to export 3,000 tonnes of onion to Sri Lanka on Government to Government basis. In view of the comfortable availability of onions in the market, and declining prices, it was decided on February 12, 1999 to permit the export of 25,000 MT of onion per month for 3 months through agencies to be designated by the Government of Maharashtra. Further, it was decided on March 5, 1999 to also permit an agency designated by the Government of Gujarat to export 15,000 MT and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India to export 10,000 MT per month for three months (till May, 1999).

Filling up of the Vacancies in Canteens of Central Government Offices

*239. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have issued any OM vide No. 3/1/92-Dir(C) dated 22nd June, 1998, regarding lifting the ban on creation/filling up of posts in the non-statutory departmental canteen/tiffin rooms located in Central Government offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these orders are being followed by all departments of Central Government, particularly CPWD, NDZ-II, New Delhi; and

(d) if not, whether Government would issue any instructions to the CPWD authorities for implementing these orders and fill all the compassionate grounds vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 3/1/92-Dir.(C) dated 22.6.1998 containing full detail is attached as statement. (*See* below)

(c) The Department of Personnel and Training is concerned with the policy aspects relating to running of the non-statutory Canteens and Tiffin Rooms as also the staffing pattern therefor. Such guidelines and instructions as issued by the Department are required to be followed by all the Ministries/Departments and their Attached and Subordinate Offices including the CPWD.